

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a prior art system for distributing content over the Internet. The system includes a Content Publisher 10, an Internet 30, and a Pirate 40. The Content Publisher 10 includes an Object Creation module 12, a Web Page Files module 22, and an Object file 25 (e.g., content). The Object Creation module 12 creates the Object file 25, which is then stored in the Web Page Files module 22. The Content Publisher 10 is connected to the Internet 30 via a dashed line 32. The Internet 30 is connected to the Pirate 40 via a dashed line 34. The Pirate 40 includes a PC 50, which contains a Web Browser 54 and Content Files 25'. The Content Files 25' contain an Object file 57. The Object file 57 is then processed by a File Replication module 43 and an Illicit Distribution module 47. The Illicit Distribution module 47 distributes the content to Unauthorized Users 70 via a Distribution Channel 60 (e.g., Internet). The Unauthorized Users 70 are shown as a sequence of boxes labeled 70₁, 70₂, ..., 70_y. A box labeled 'Illicit Object Copies' 25'' is also shown, with an arrow pointing to the Distribution Channel 60. The label 'FIG. 1' is located at the bottom right of the diagram.

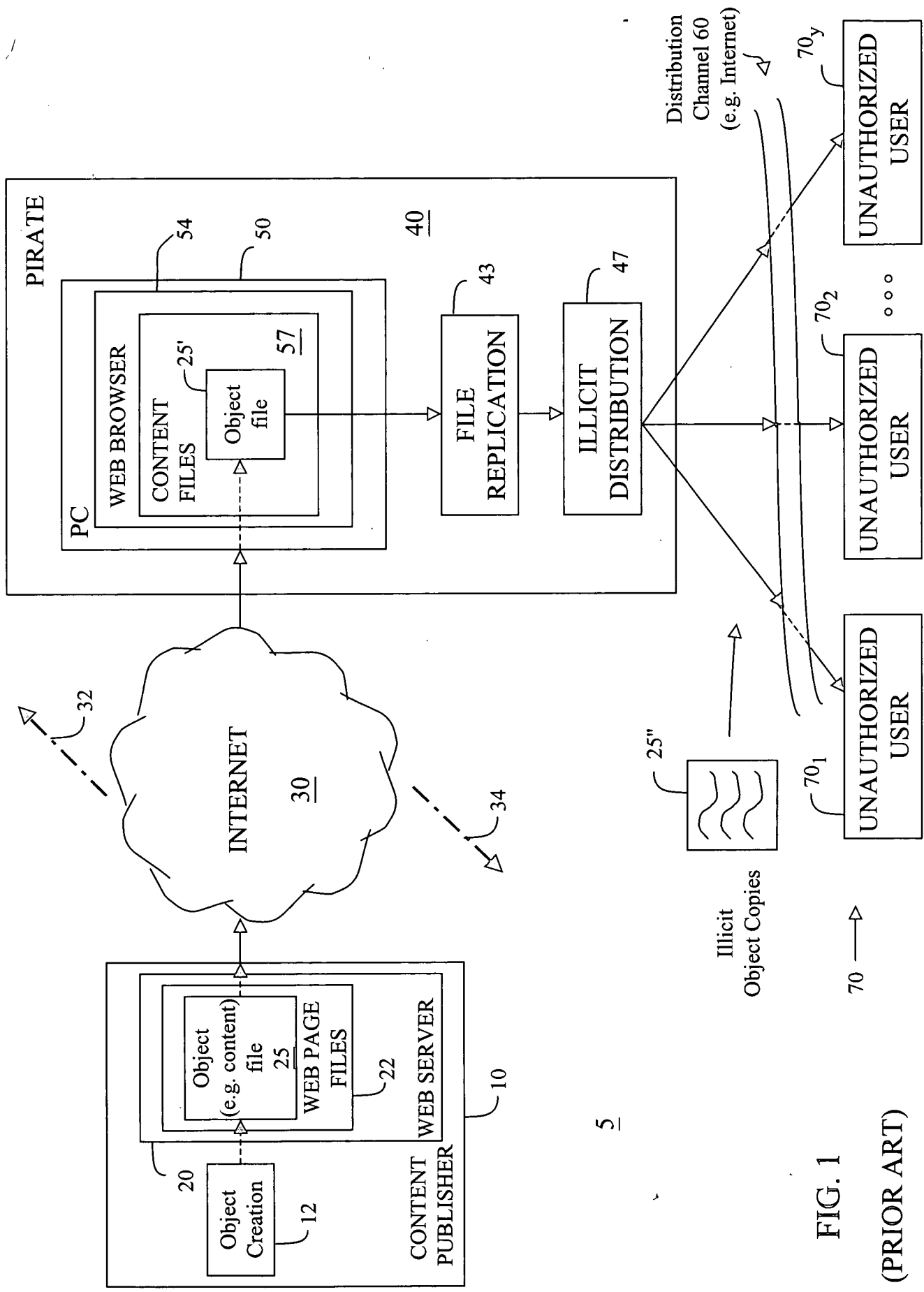


FIG. 1
(PRIOR ART)

FIG. 2 (PRIOR ART)

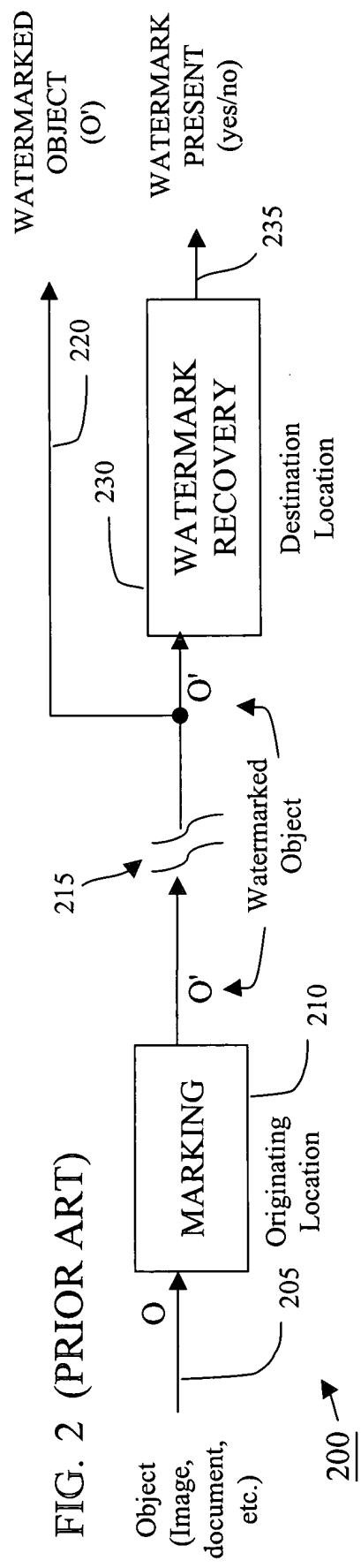


FIG. 3

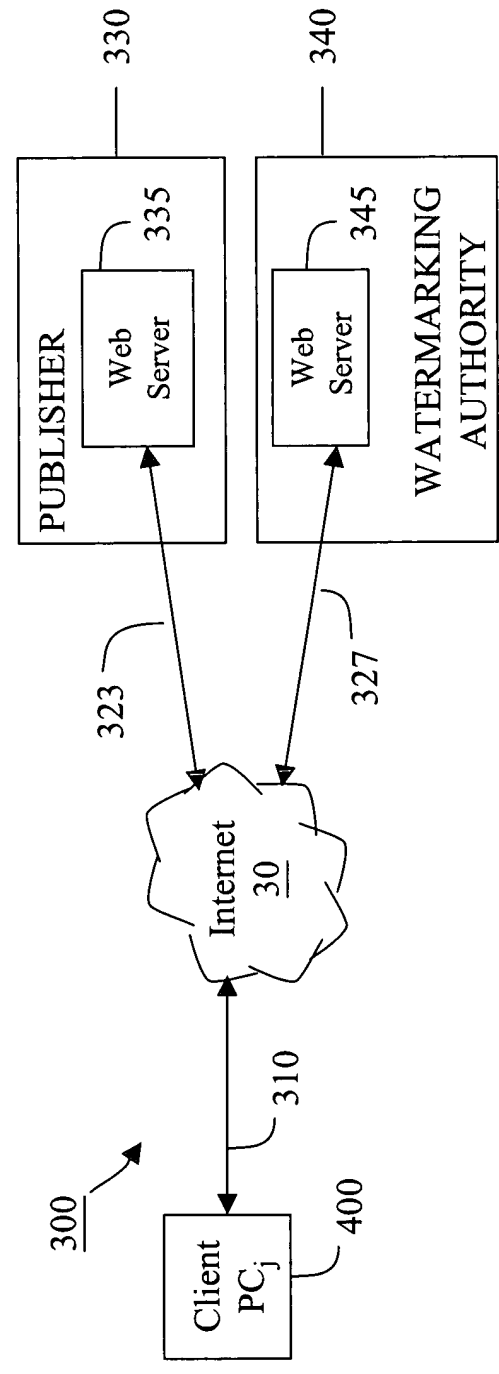


FIG. 10

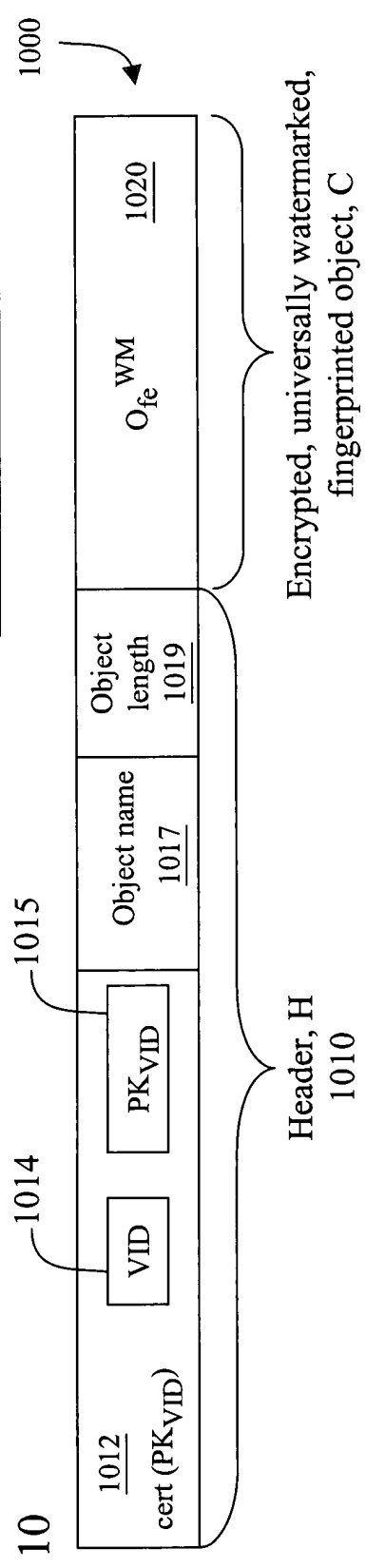
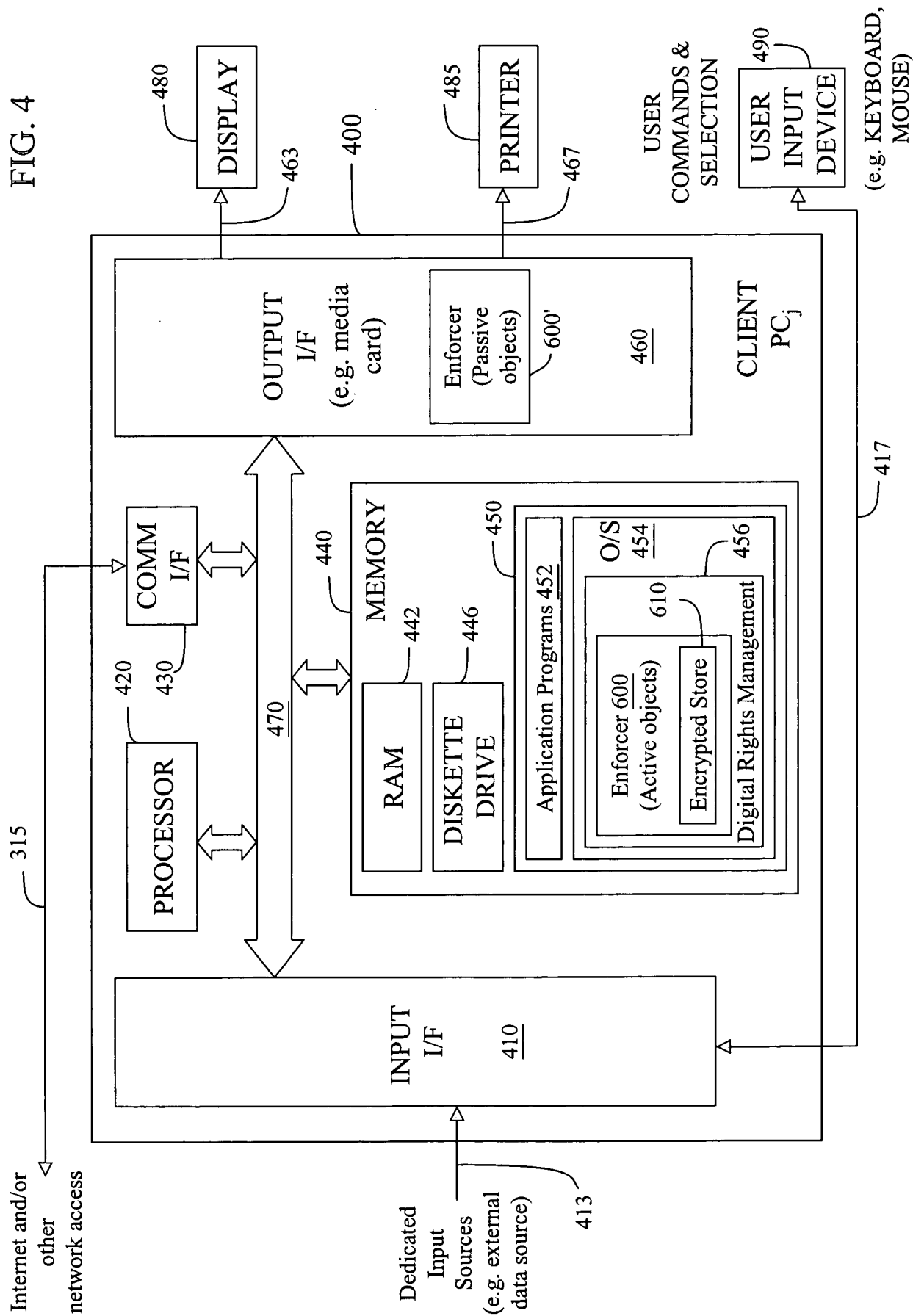


FIG. 4



Publisher 330

Publisher's web server 335
downloads file containing desired object,
 C_i , e.g. here O_{fe}^{WM} , to client PC_j , at no
cost to user
(file is encrypted, universally watermarked
and fingerprinted for client PC_j)

520

Publisher issues and downloads to user electronic
license (L), signed by publisher, which provides
specific policy specifying permitted use ("rights")
of object and specific secret key (k_i^e)
for decrypting object

550

File download
request

525

Rights
desired,
Payment
& CID

545

Signed
license
(L)

555

Client PC_j (400)

Client PC_j issues request, through
executing web browser, to
download file containing desired object, C_i

510

Downloaded content file

530

Browser stores downloaded object, C_i , in
local hard disk for subsequent access and use

User, through, e.g. separate electronic transaction
conducted through browser, remits (license fee)
payment to publisher for subsequent use of object

560

Browser stores license (L) in database for
subsequent access and use in handling object

540

C_i (O_{fe}^{WM})

License
Database
 L_i

610

Encrypted Store

Object Store C_i

580

577

At run/play time, client PC accesses desired encrypted content
file from encrypted store, verifies license and, through O/S,
handles object in accordance with rights specified in license

Unencrypted watermarked and
fingerprinted object M (O_f^{WM})

590

500

FIG. 5

From content (e.g. publisher's) web server:

header H_i , license L_i ,
encrypted object C_i (e.g. O_{fe}^{WM})

FIG. 6

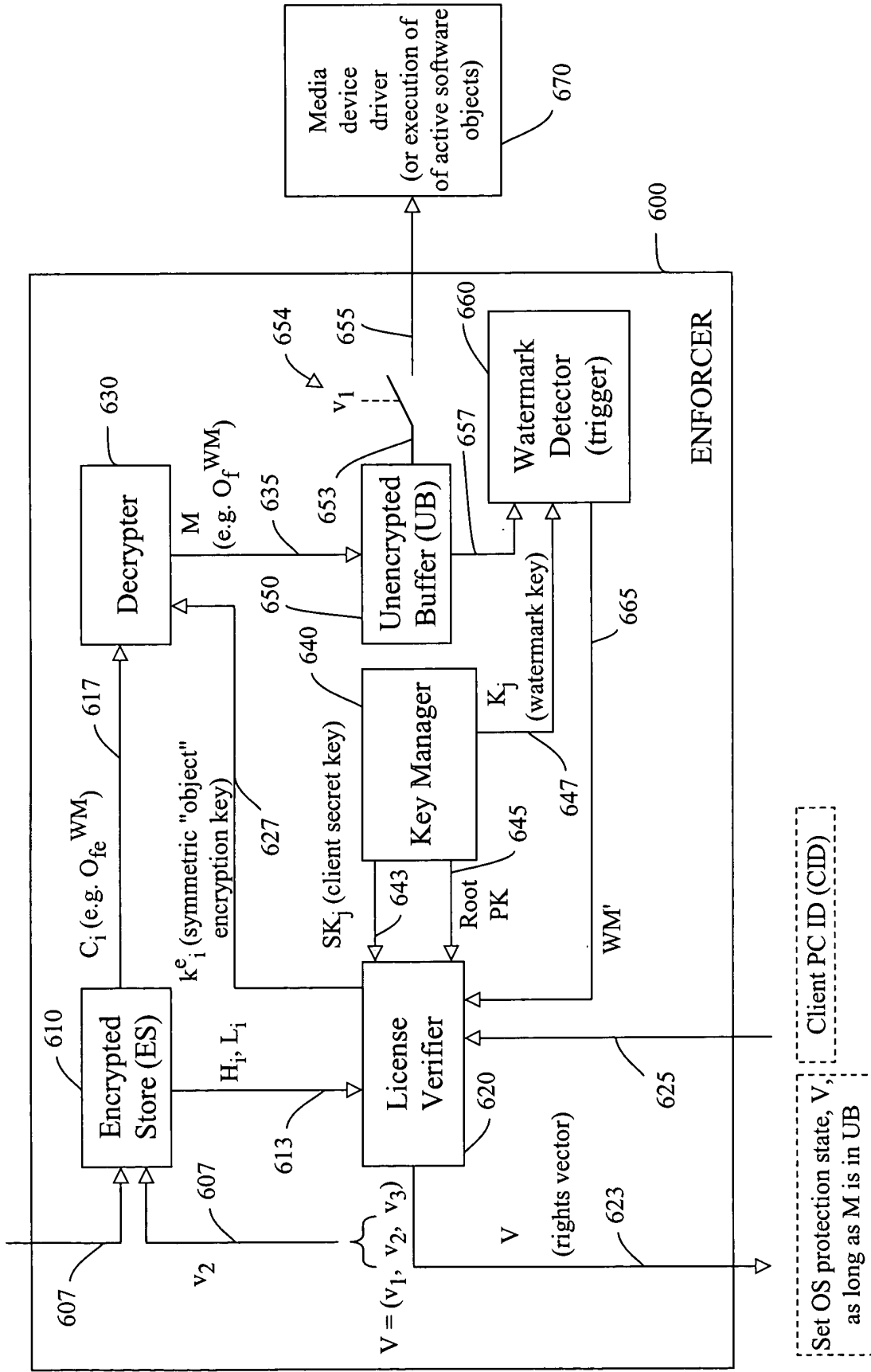


FIG. 7

700

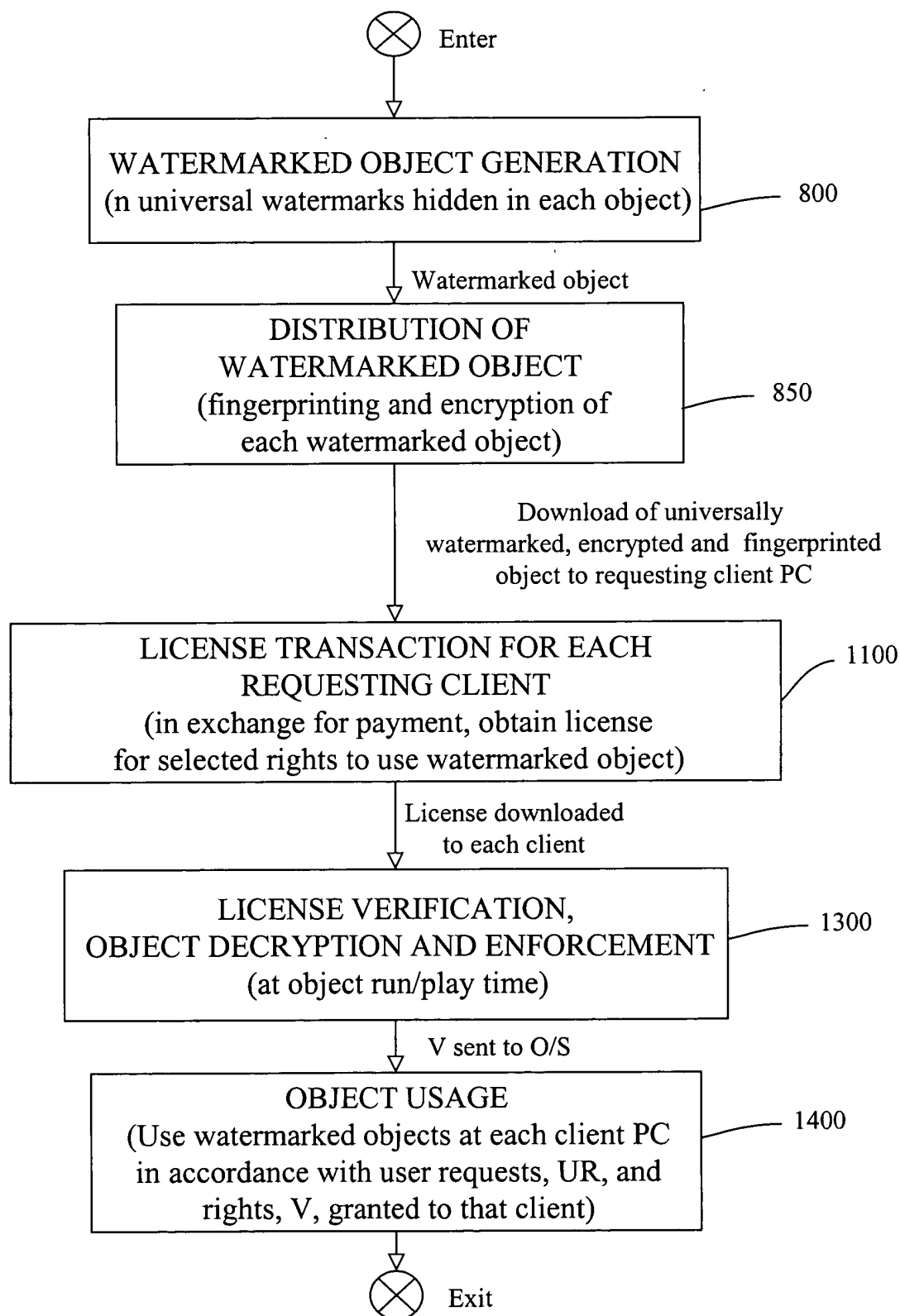


FIG. 8

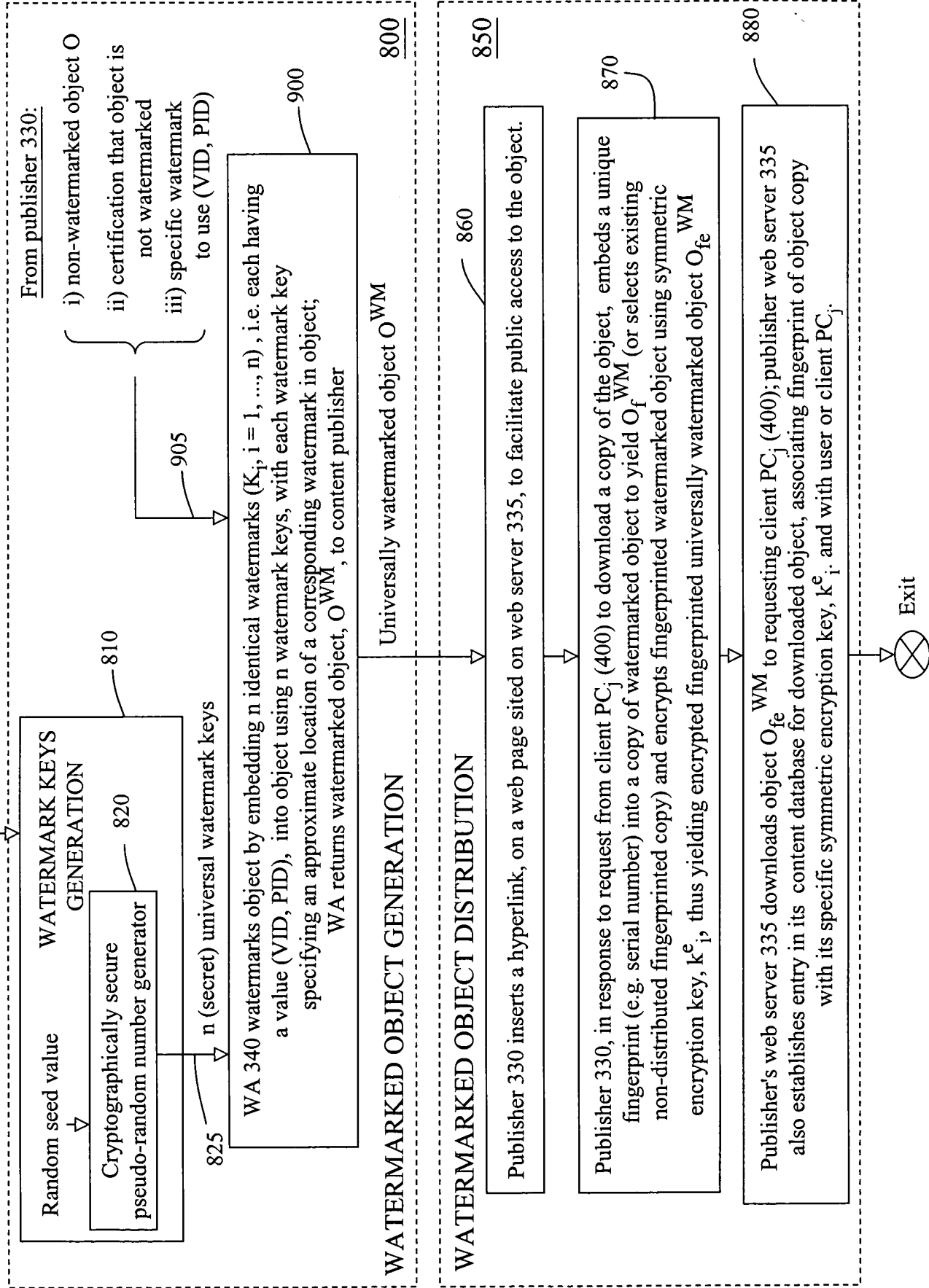


FIG. 9 is a flowchart illustrating a process for creating a universally watermarked object O^{WM} by embedding n identical watermarks in a non-watermarked object O, where the approximate starting location of each watermark is given by a corresponding different one of the n watermark keys, K.

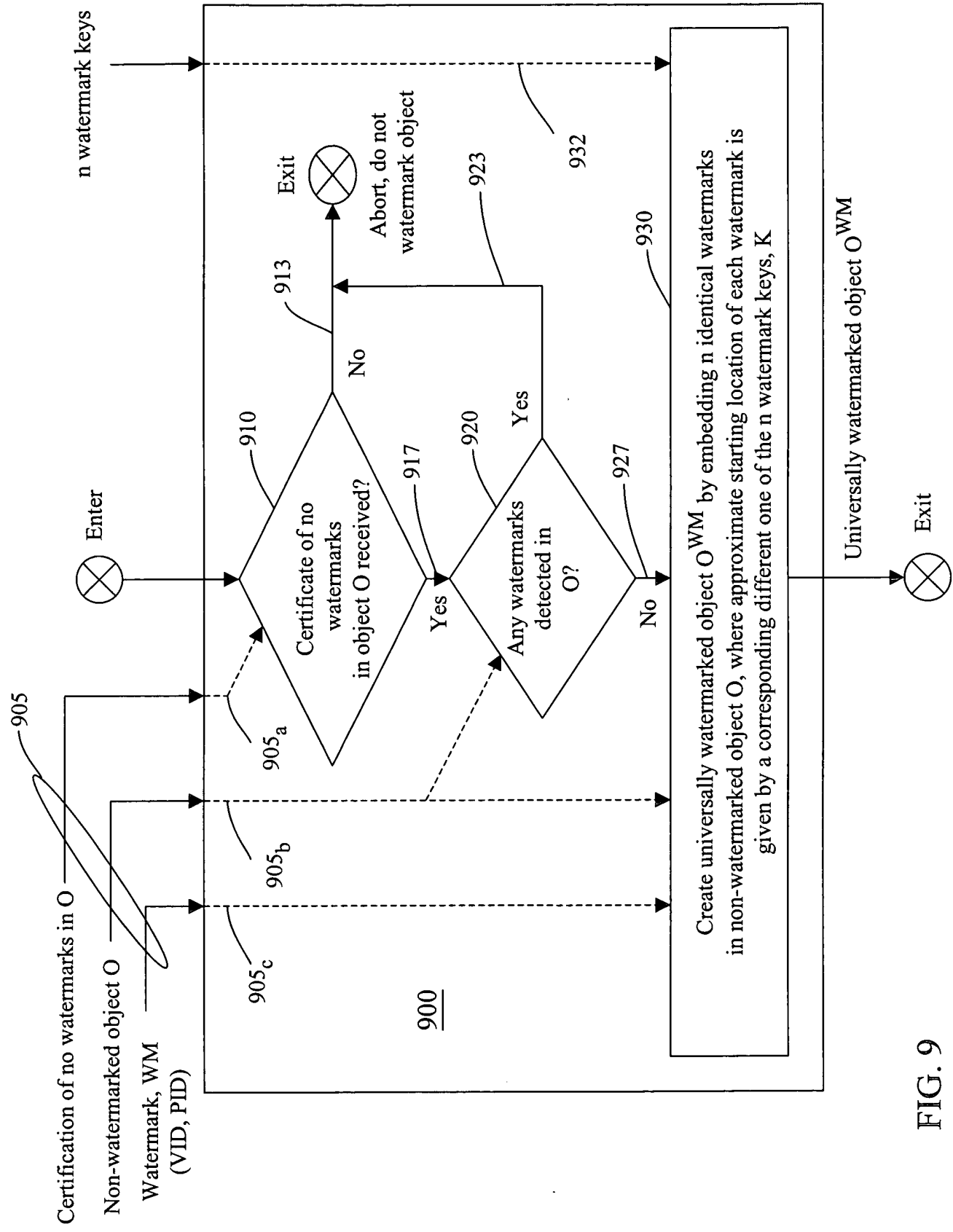


FIG. 9

FIG. 11

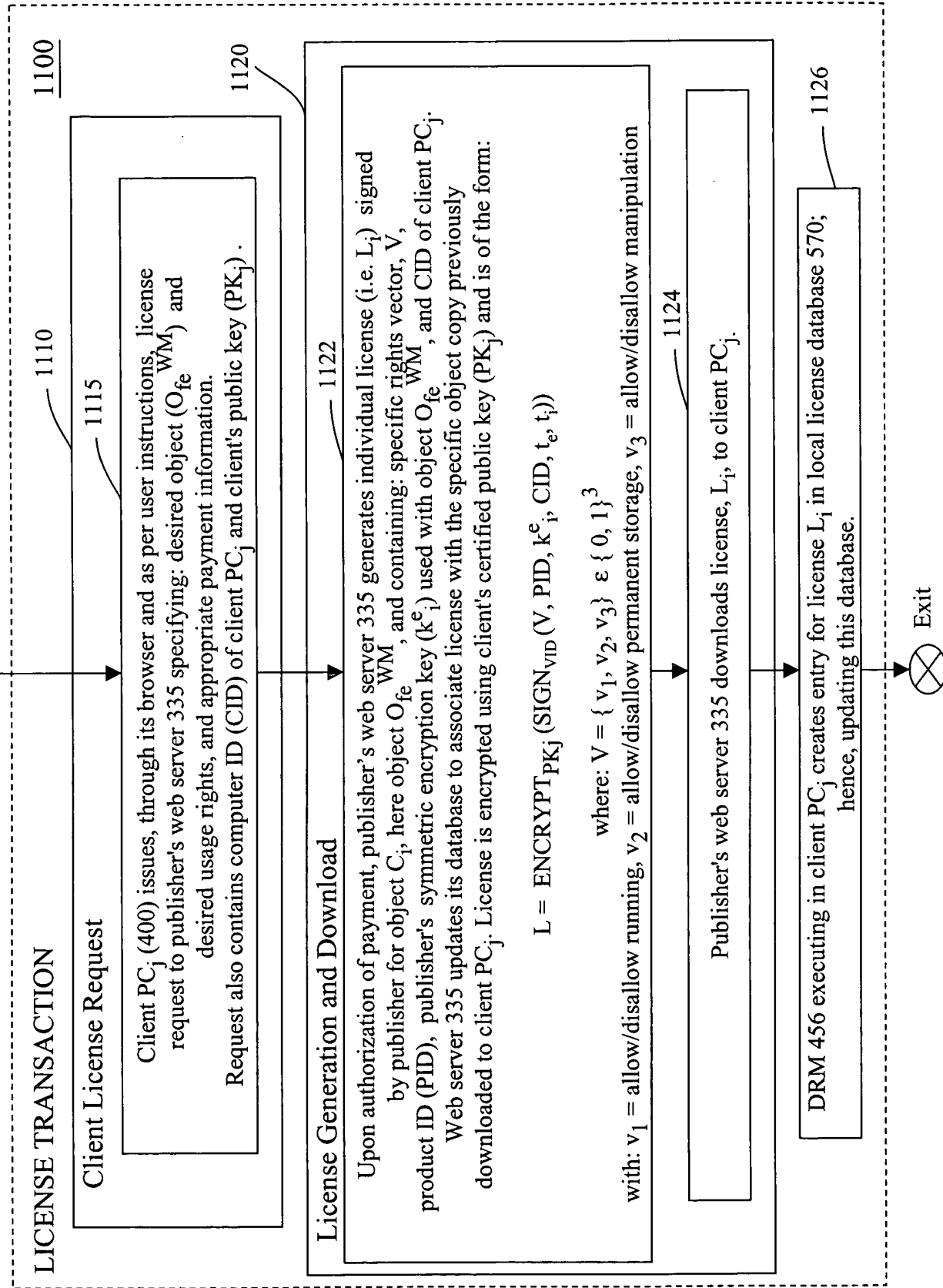


FIG. 12

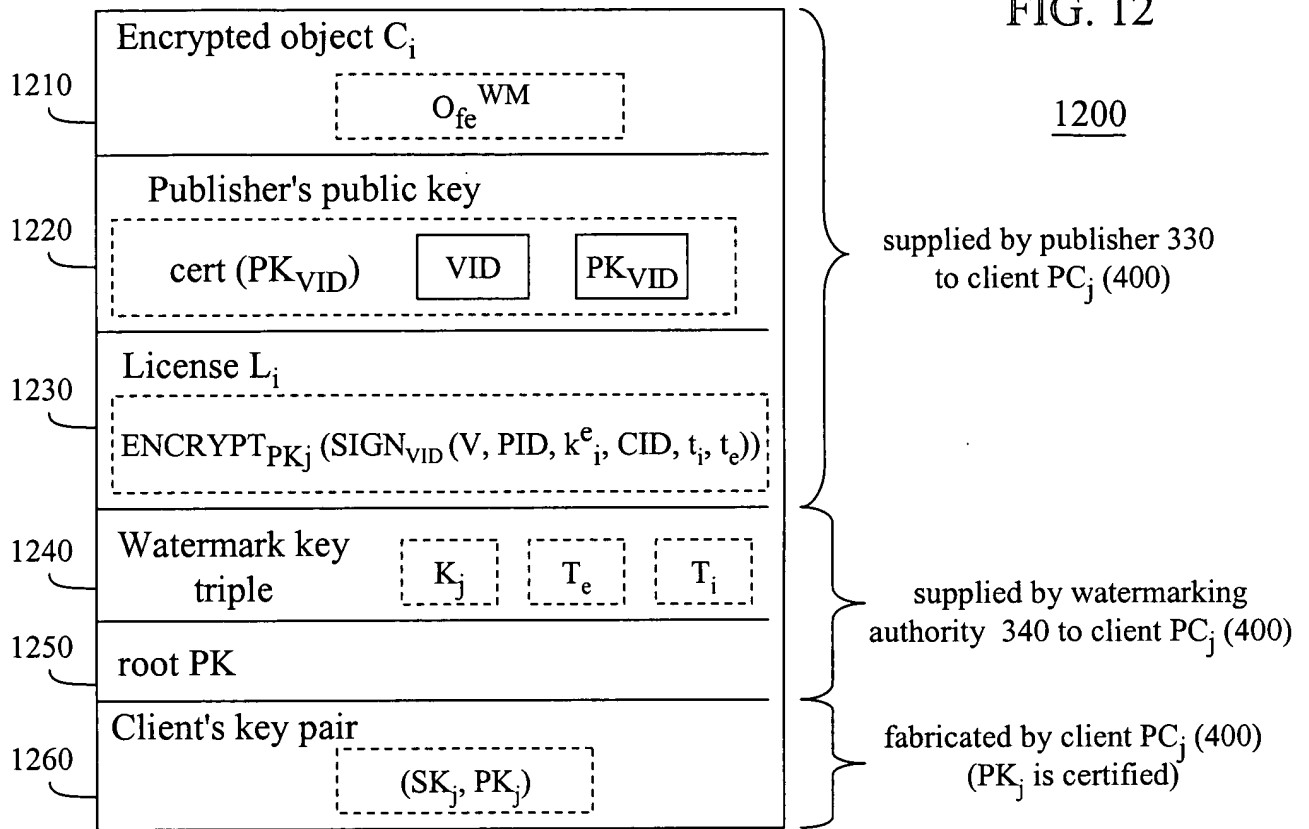


FIG. 14

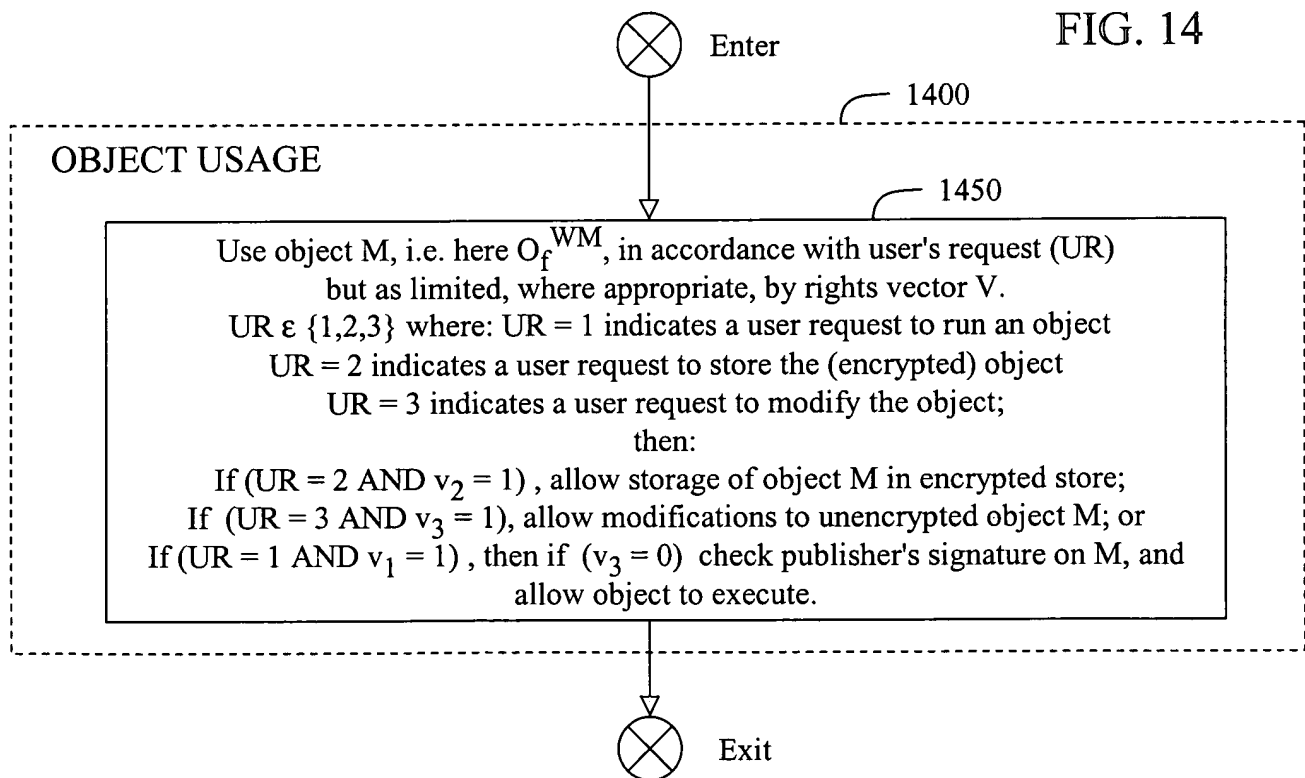
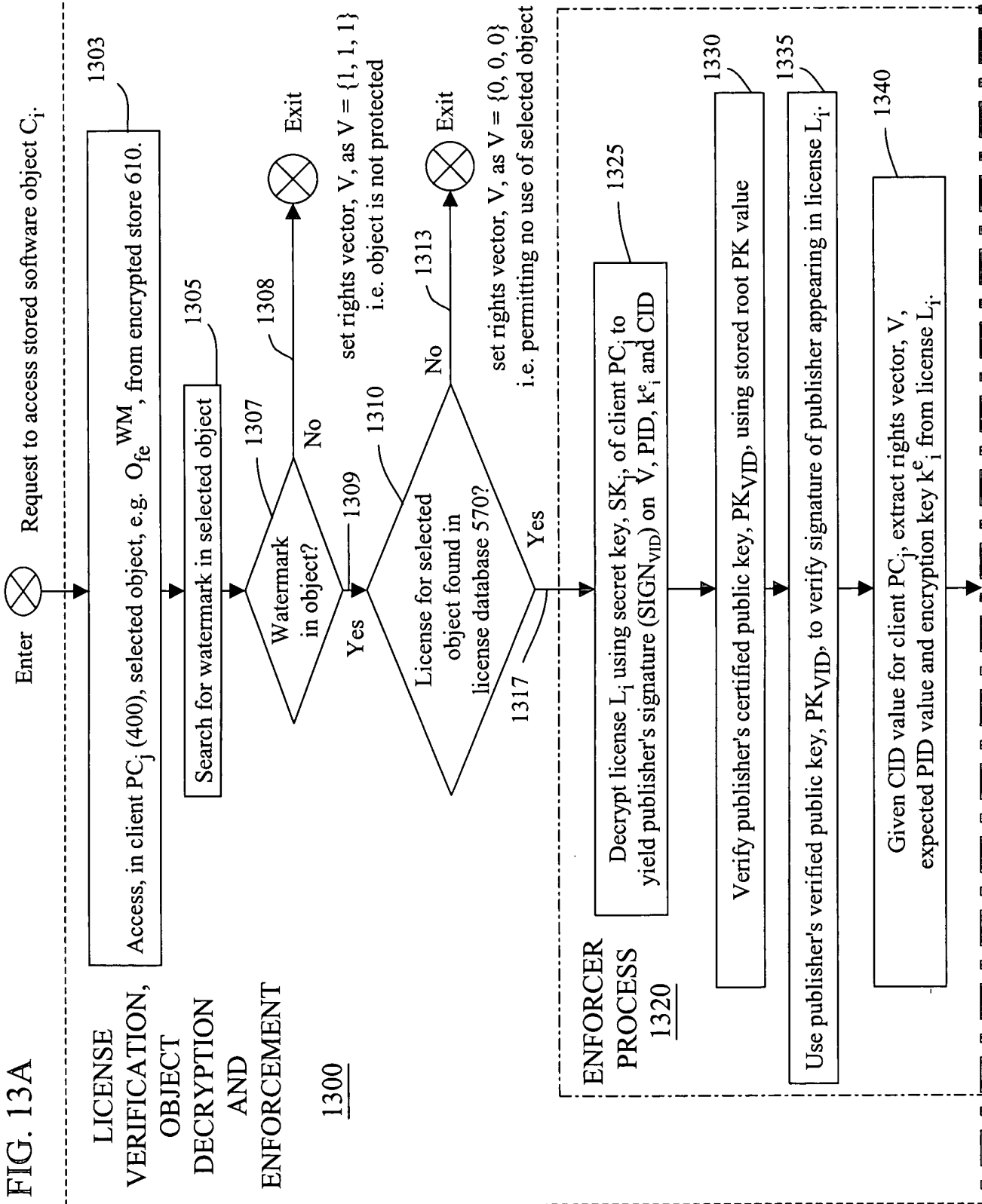


FIG. 13A



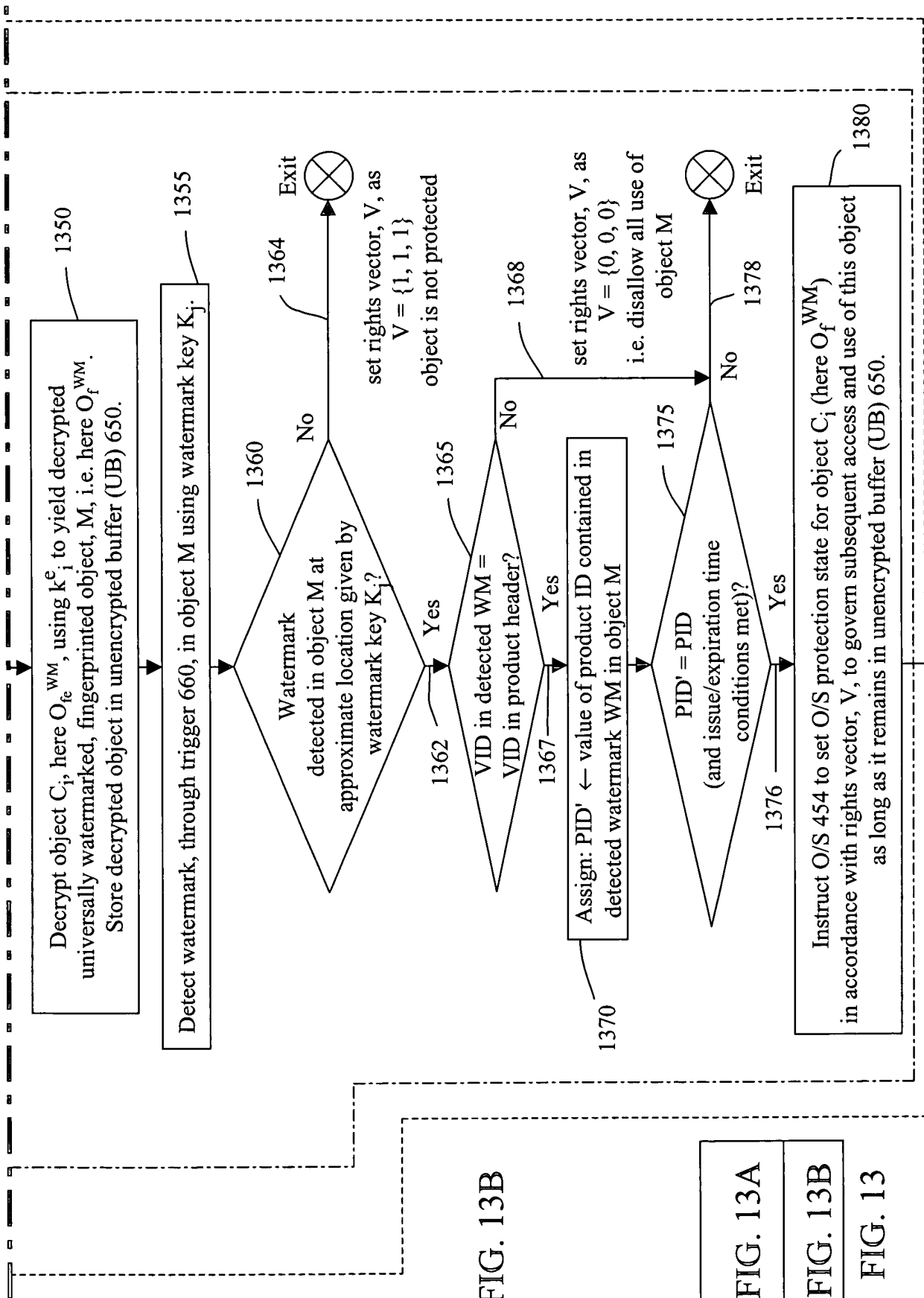


FIG. 13B

FIG. 13A

FIG. 13B

FIG. 13

FIG. 15 -- CLIENT WATERMARK KEY
ASSIGNMENT PROCESS

1500

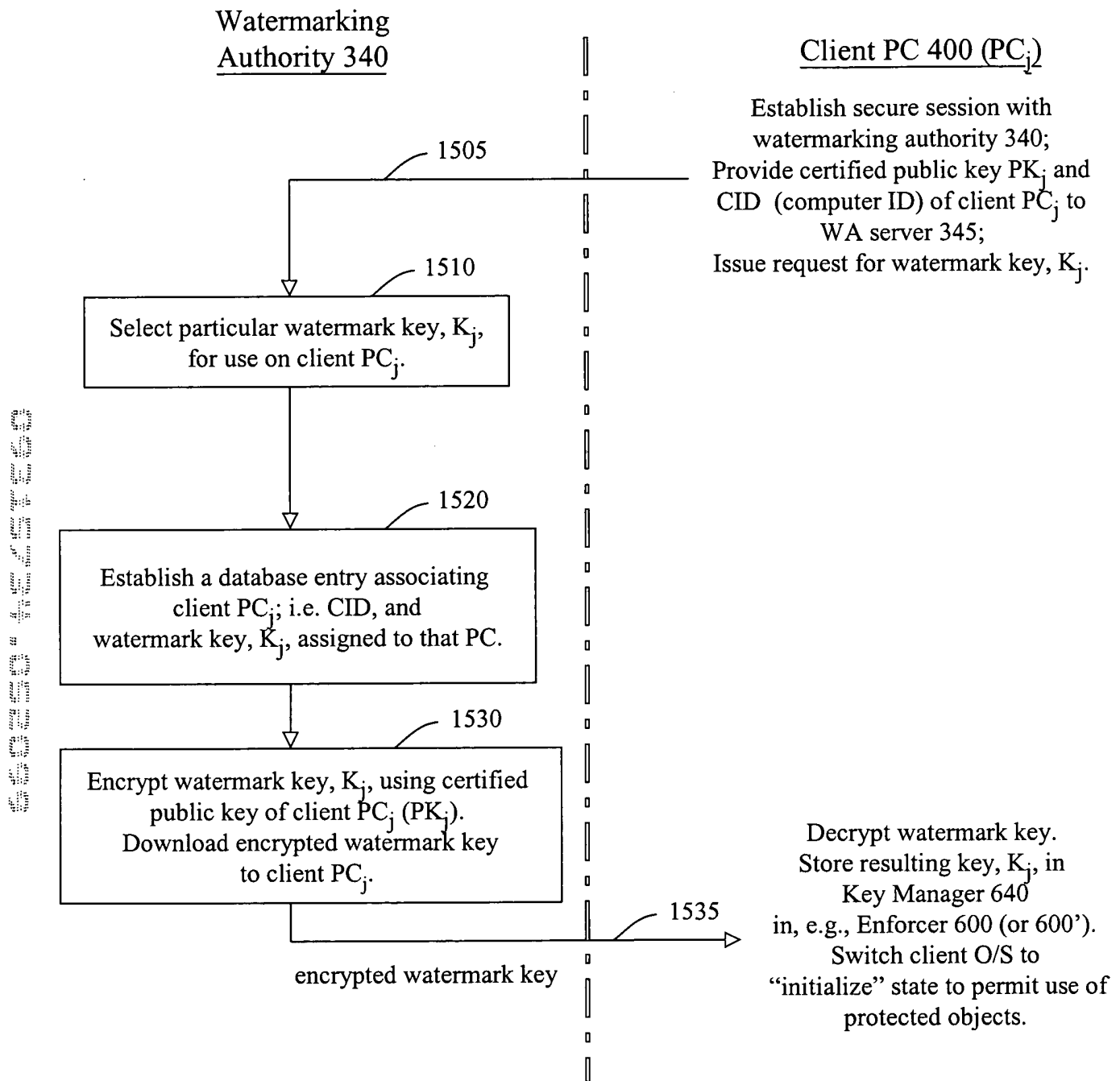


FIG. 16 -- NEW WATERMARK KEY PROVISIONING PROCESS

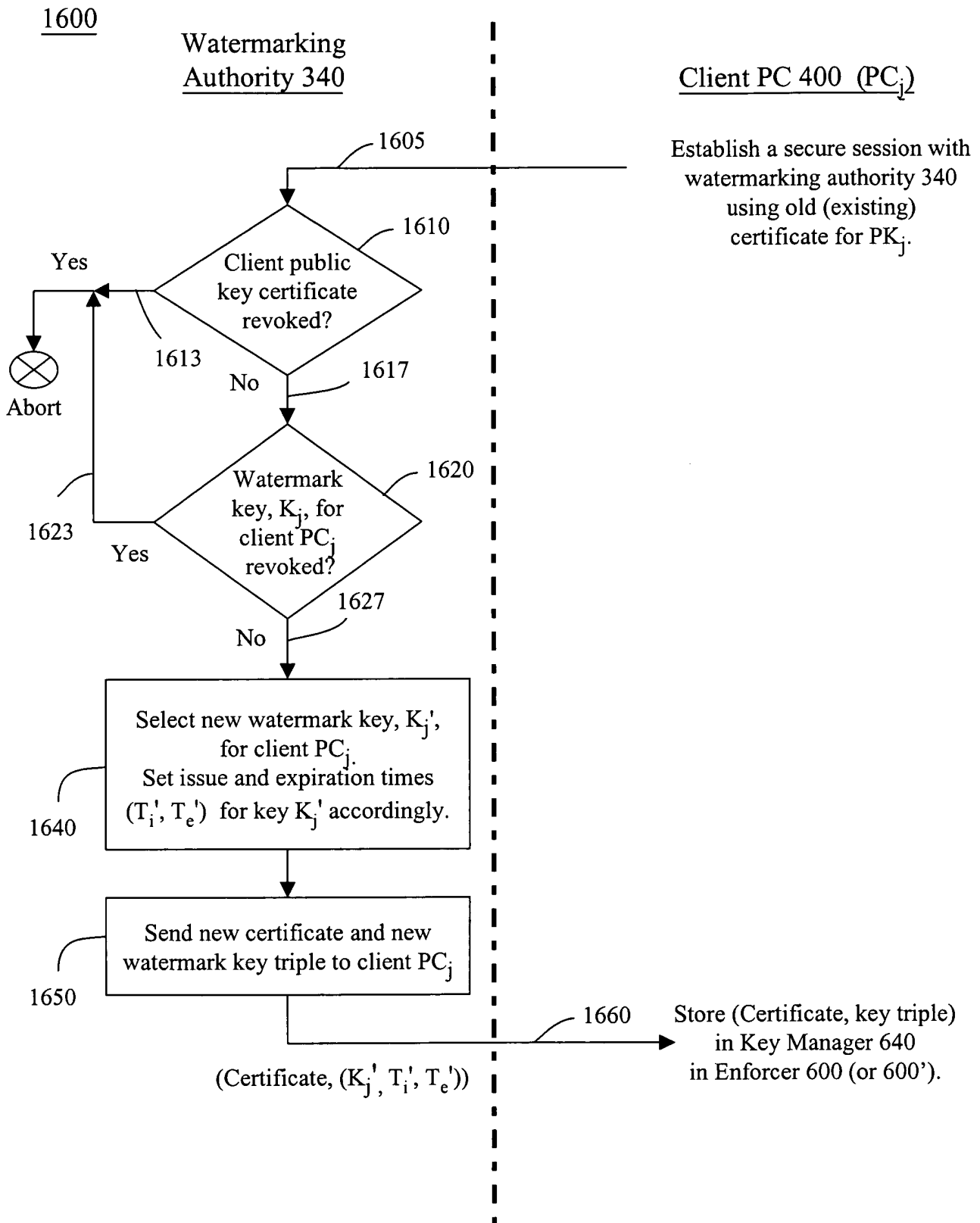


FIG. 17

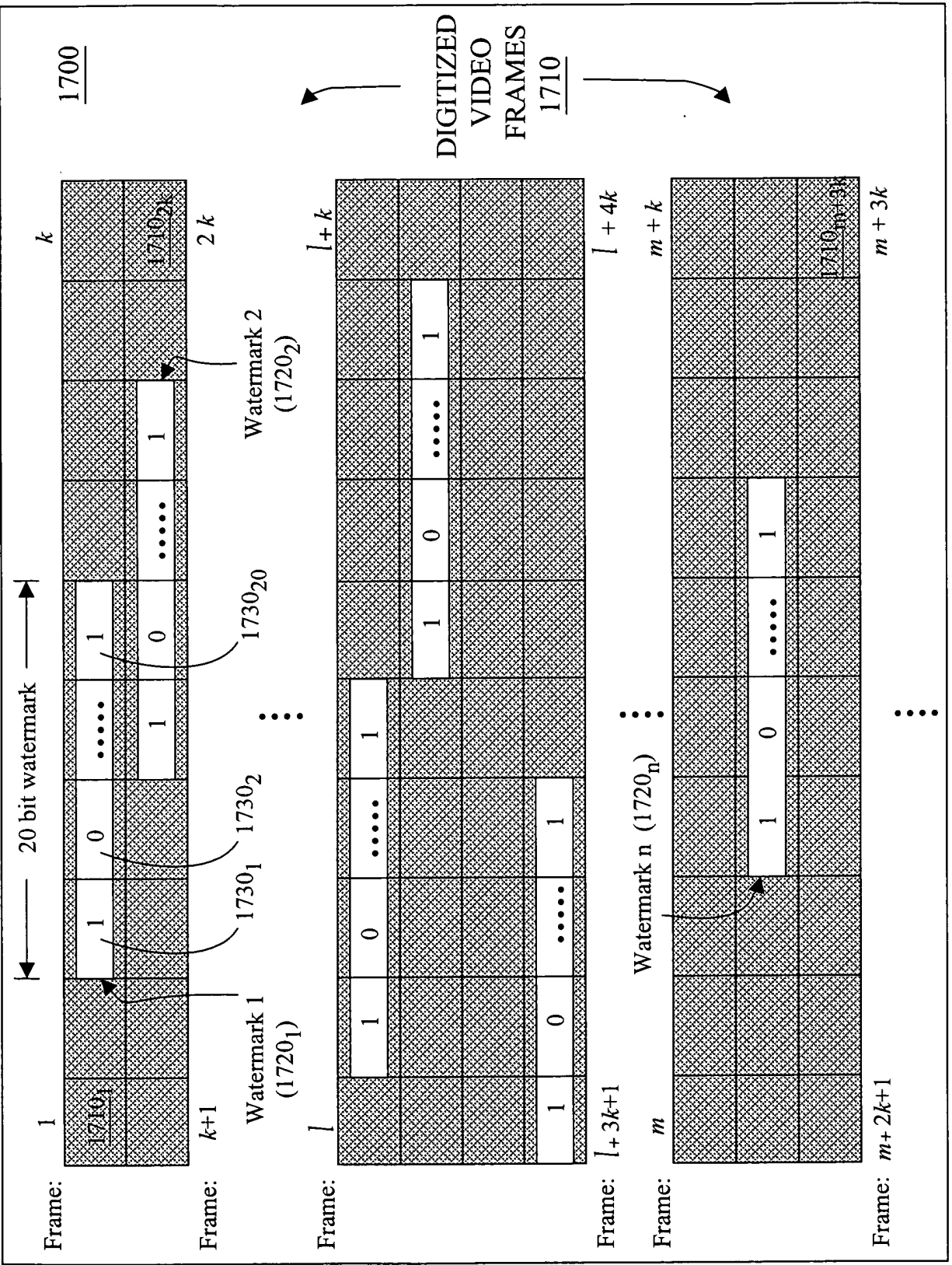


FIG. 18

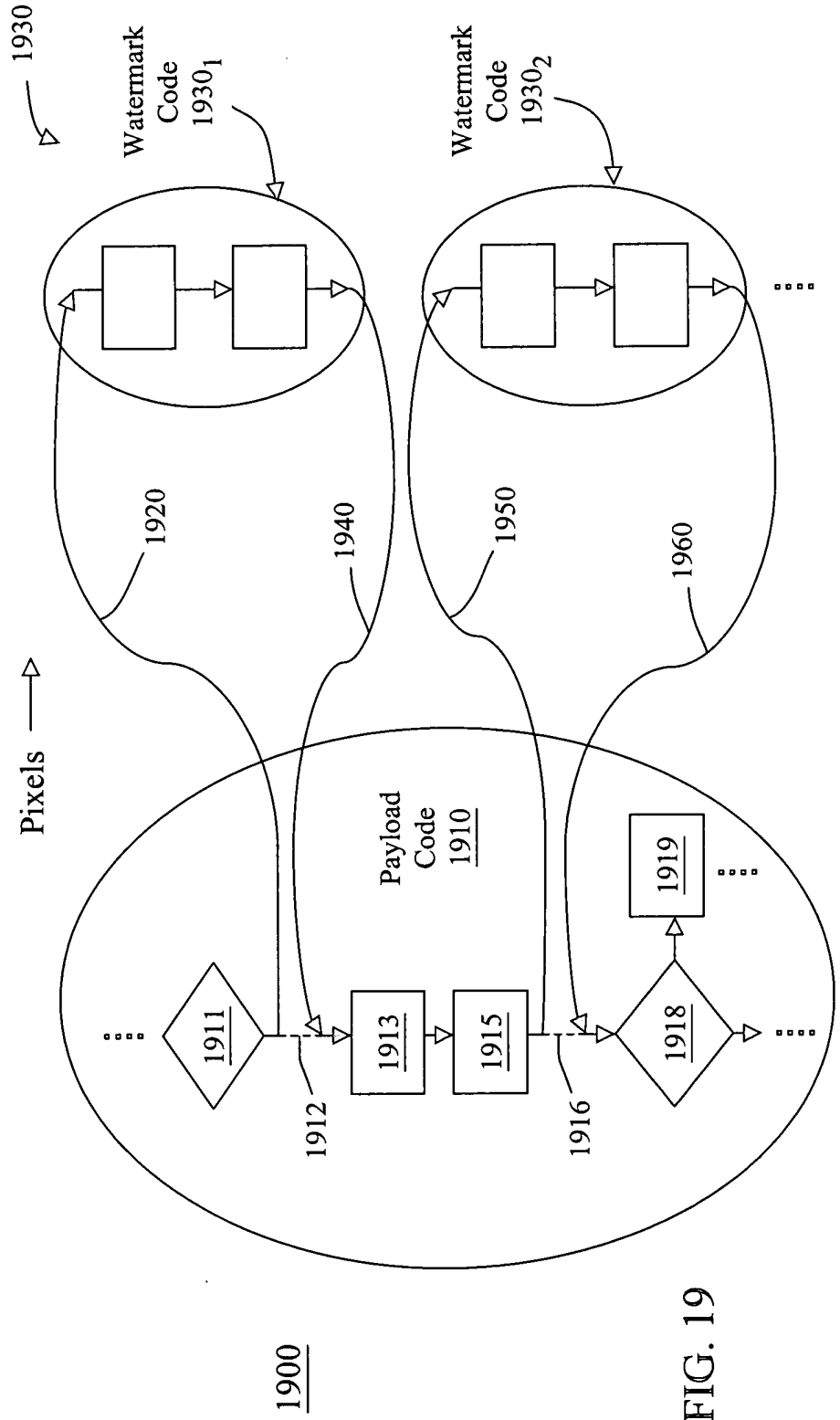
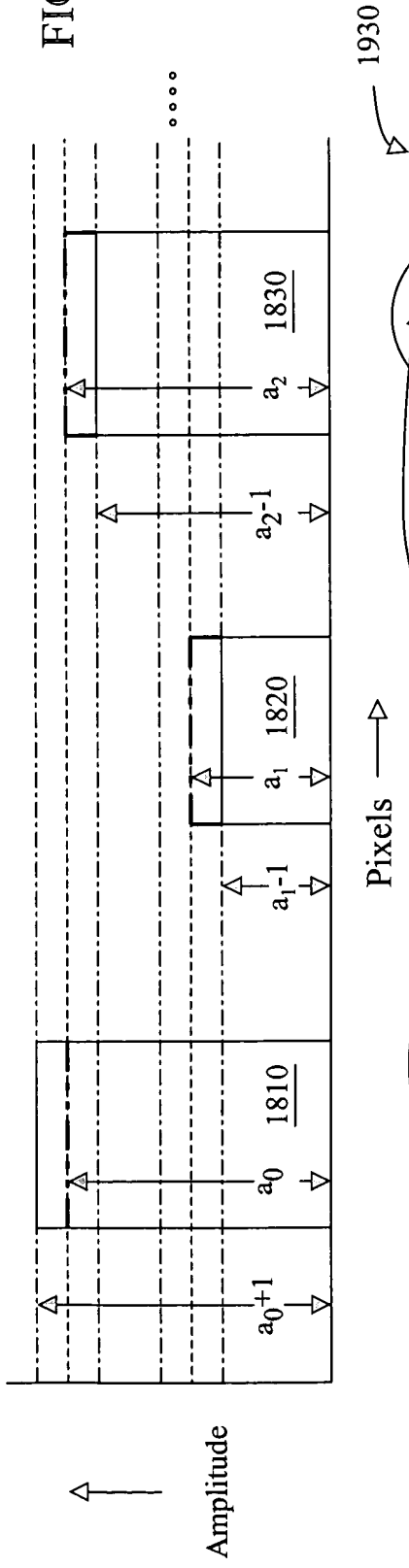


FIG. 19